

Buck

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Monon Well Field CERCLA File

DATE: March 3, 1986

THRU: Reggie Baker *RB*

FROM: John P. Buck *JB*
Site Management Section

SUBJECT: Investigation of Contamination Source of
Monon Well Field

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



322777

On February 19, 1986, Division of Land Pollution Control (DLPC) staff, John Buck and Richard Molini, participated in a meeting with representatives of Jones Chemical, Inc. at their facility in Beech Grove, Indiana. In attendance for Jones Chemical were Messrs. William Starcher, Walter Lockhart and Bill Rater.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather information regarding the Jones Chemical operations in Monon, Indiana. Evidently, Jones Chemical experienced labor problems with the teamsters union in the Indianapolis area during the late 1950's and early 1960's. Consequently, Jones Chemical hired four teamsters from Monon, the closest town outside the jurisdiction of the Indianapolis based union.

In conjunction with hiring drivers, Jones Chemical also leased property along the L and N railroad tracks near the intersection of Fourth and Dorothy Street in Monon. That facility was primarily used as a truck parking area for the Monon based drivers. In addition, that facility contained an 6 - 10 thousand gallon tank which was used to store tetrachloroethylene (PCE). A Jones Chemical driver, Jay Stempel, delivered the PCE to industries in the vicinity of Monon. Company sources indicated that Jones Chemical has never actually produced PCE, but purchased the material from a company in Louisiana. The tank would be filled periodically by a semi-trailer.

Bill Rater could not recall any incidents when PCE was spilled or leaked from the tank. He did mention that one of the companies receiving the PCE was a drycleaner located immediately south of Monon's well field. He also thought that the cleaner had a 100 - 125 gallon tank for the PCE. Staff have been unable to confirm this since both Mr. Stempel and the operator of the cleaner are no longer alive. No other driver ever ran the PCE route and Jones Chemical discontinued the operation after Mr. Stempel died in 1974.

Presently, neither the PCE tank or the building exists on the site. Bill Rater occasionally parks his truck at the facility. Staff requested that Jones Chemical submit a plot plan of the site which should include the location of the former tank. Staff also asked Jones Chemical if they objected to the DLPC taking soil samples on-site. Mr. Lockhart indicated that Jones Chemical was interested in cooperating with the State and that they had no objections pending approval from corporate headquarters.

Finally, Bill Rater mentioned that the railroad (either Monon or L and N) conducted an engine cleaning operation on the other side of the tracks, south of the truck parking area. Later contact with the railroad disputed this contention. They claim that only minor engine maintainance was performed on the site in addition to track repairs.

JPB/cl

cc: Richard Molini